

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully traverses the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 19, 27, and 30 over Hohla in view of Flom, and McMillen.

Hohla discloses an eye surgery system for obtaining an ablation shot pattern using a computer system based on topographic profile data on a patient's eye sent from a topography system, and ablating a cornea of the patient's eye using an excimer laser eye surgery system based on the ablation shot pattern sent from the computer system. Hohla, however, does not disclose or suggest automatic identification to ensure accuracy of the source of the topographic profile data or the ablation shot pattern data; nor does Hohla disclose or suggest storing and outputting the topographic profile data or the ablation shot pattern data in association with the data for ensuring accuracy of the source thereof. Column 6, lines 40-45 of Hohla, cited in the Final Office Action, disclose obtaining ablation shot pattern data, not ensuring accuracy of the source thereof. Even if Hohla attempted to ensure accuracy of the source of the topographic profile data, it would not be possible because a corneal shape measured when a patient sits upright as in Hohla differs from a corneal shape when the patient is in a prone position during surgery. Hence, topographic profile data is unsuitable for ensuring accuracy of the source of the data.

Flom discloses an iris identification system for automatically identifying a person by comparing images of an iris and a pupil with stored iris and pupil images. Flom, however, is not related to ophthalmic surgery and neither discloses nor suggests storing and outputting an identification code based on an iris pattern in association with

measurement data or surgical data for ensuring accuracy of the source of the data. Consequently, even if Flom were combined with Hohla, which applicant submits would not be an obvious combination for persons of ordinary skill in the relevant ophthalmic art, that would not result in all of the features of the present invention as set forth in the claims.

McMillen does not add the claim features missing from Hohla and Flom.

Applicant has amended claim 19 to more clearly recite the features of the invention, and has amended claim 27 to correct a minor informality.

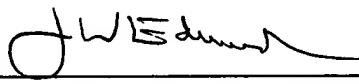
Applicant requests entry of this Amendment and reconsideration and allowance of pending claims 19, 27, and 30.

If any additional fees are required to enter this Amendment, please charge the required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

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By: 

James W. Edmondson
Reg. No. 33,871